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MUS 451.12: Major Performance Area IV - Voice Studio

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

To acquire and develop sound technical, musical, and artistic skills as they are applied to the voice; to develop a base for evaluating healthy and efficient singing as well as correct vocal technical flaws; to learn a variety of repertoire from the Western classical tradition; to improve vocal technique and musicality through weekly lessons, daily practice, assigned repertoire, and vocal exercises; and to acquire analytical skills necessary for successful performances and/or teaching

COURSE DESCRIPTION

You will meet with me for 50 minutes (30 for ½ hour lessons) a week for at least 13 weeks. The course will consist of technical and musical work within the studio, and daily practice and performance opportunities outside of the studio. Students will attend recital hours, area master classes, or studio class when applicable as well as attend voice recitals of colleagues, faculty, and other professionals from the field. Students will demonstrate skills learned and objectives met by memorizing the required amount of repertoire for their degree plan. Please consult me should you have questions or concerns regarding your degree plan requirements.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Attend recital hours and master classes

You are required to be available from 2:10 – 3:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays for student recital hours. It is not advisable to schedule class or work sessions during this time, so please talk to me early in the semester should you anticipate not being available for recital hours. All voice majors must be concurrently registered for MUS 150A or 350A (labeled an “ensemble” in the schedule of classes) and attend the weekly area mater class scheduled for 4:10pm Tuesdays. Voice minors and elective students also are encouraged to register but not required.

Attend voice recitals and other UM vocal events

Because course objectives include learning a variety of repertoire and learning to evaluate singing, you will be expected to attend all student and faculty voice recitals. Please discuss conflicts with me ahead of time. Consistently being absent from these events will be noted and taken into consideration when determining your semester grade.

Come to assigned lesson time weekly

Be here and ready to sing (already warmed up) at your scheduled time. Please notify me by phone the night before or the morning of your lesson if you are ill. Leave a message on my voicemail as soon as you suspect you might need to miss your lesson. (See below for more information on absences.)

Be prepared

Voice lesson time will be dedicated to the study of vocal technique and musical interpretation - not note reading. Students are expected to know correct pitches and rhythms before presenting pieces for lessons. Please let me know if you have concerns regarding preparation for lesson time. You will need the following materials for lessons:

- Notebook for recording exercises and other information
- Pencil

- Assigned music (organized in a binder) & music for your pianist
- Recorder (if possible): I strongly recommend that you record your lessons (suggested formats include mp3, mini-disc, tape – not voice activated for speech)

Practice daily

You should keep a written journal of your lessons to help remind you of exercises covered. I also strongly recommend recording and listening to your practice sessions as reinforcement of what we are working on in your lessons. You may also find it helpful to keep a written journal of your practice sessions. Be sure to practice vocal exercises in addition to repertoire. Recommended practice time is one hour a day which may be split into smaller sessions within the course of the day. Practice sessions should never exceed 1½ hours. Recommended practice time does not include musical preparation, such as diction, translation, and other scholarly preparations.

Be prepared for juries, UDRPs, and recitals

Part of our work will be to prepare you for juries, upper division recital programs, master classes, auditions, and recitals. You are responsible for knowing departmental requirements for your degree program and class standing and consulting with me early in the semester regarding “AP” and “Ped/Rep” portions, for instance. In preparation for your juries and other performances, you will complete **Research Sheets** (progressive requirements based on course number/class standing) to be turned in to my office or faculty mailbox no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, April 30.

Find an accompanist

You must find an accompanist by your third lesson of the semester. You must keep your pianist informed of schedule changes and cancellations. Plan to work with your pianist once a week during your practice time so that you will be prepared for your upcoming performances. Professional accompanists are available for hire, or you may consult the piano area board in the main hall for lists of student accompanists.

Notify me of auditions and outside performances

If you are doing outside auditions or performances (this includes solos in choir), please let me know ahead of time. We should prepare this repertoire together during lesson time.

Check your e-mail daily

E-mail has quickly become the most efficient and direct way to communicate in academic settings. You are responsible for keeping up with announcements sent by UM faculty and administration. You are also required to either check your University of Montana e-mail account daily or set up that account to forward to your regular address. I will correspond with you via your University of Montana e-mail account.

Check the voice area bulletin board & my office door

Look there for information on voice area policies, procedures, master classes, jury lists, and auditions. You are responsible for posted information.

Be responsible for your vocal health

Ask me for a handout if you don't have this information already!

GRADING POLICY

Your grade will be based on both your work during the semester (as outlined above) as well as your final jury performance. You are expected to know the requirements for your level and program. Please remember that you are ultimately responsible for memorizing the appropriate number of pieces.

Your semester grade is based on the following:

Preparation (following expectations as outlined above)

Potential (often the difference between an A- and an A for instance is your ability to demonstrate during the semester in lessons and performances that you are honoring your potential as a student performer)

Student recital hour and master class **attendance** and **participation**

Recital and musical events **attendance**

Final jury **performance**, or UDRP, or recital

More on grading: keep in mind that the assignment of an A for your final grade would indicate that you had done superior work in all categories. Grades in the A and B range mean that you are doing good or excellent work; grades in the C range are marginal in my studio and indicate that much improvement is needed to continue in applied voice.

MAKE-UP POLICY: Please read carefully!

Because the voice is a very delicate instrument, you may need to cancel a lesson for reasons of illness, fatigue, or other inhibiting conditions. **Make-up lessons due to illness** may be granted to those who cancel their lessons with at least one full day's notice (not just the night before) and who present appropriate documentation. You may have up to two make-up lessons per semester. **For those canceling for other reasons**, you will be expected to arrange your own rescheduling by arranging to switch lessons with someone for that week (and notifying me). Excused absences include documented illness, required university events, and professional engagements or auditions. **Lessons missed without notification will not be made up.** If you wake up in the morning and do not feel well, please cancel your lesson. Coming to your lesson will not be productive or good for your voice. To avoid putting others at risk, kindly call to let me know that you will not be coming as opposed to coming by the studio. If I must cancel your lesson, I will always reschedule it. **It is your responsibility to inform your accompanist as soon as possible of all changes and cancellations.** To cancel a lesson for any reason, please call my office and leave a message on voice mail if you miss me. Notes on my door and last minute e-mails or phone calls are not acceptable forms of notice.

REQUIRED MUSICAL EVENTS

Most required events are in the Music Recital Hall at 7:30pm unless otherwise stated.

All voice student recitals, voice faculty recitals, and choral concerts are required events. Check the music department door on a weekly basis for the most up-to-date list of events!

I also recommend that you go to as many instrumental recitals and ensemble concerts as possible. These performances will greatly enhance your musical education by exposing you to repertoire by composers you don't know, reinforcing elements of compositional and musical style, advancing you with regard to aural perception for classical music, and much more!

Students with disabilities and/or special needs should see the instructor at his or her earliest convenience and contact Disabilities Services for Students, <http://www.umt.edu/dss/> or x2243.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/Index.cfm/page/1321.